UNITED
NATIONS

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Secretariat

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14 February 1991

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for
General Services

Subject: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE: ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
"FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT"
STAMPS AND SOUVENIR CARD

Stamps

1. The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue the first set of commemorative stamps for 1991 on Friday, 15 March. The stamps, with the theme "For a better environment", commemorate the work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). They graphically highlight the benefits of the Declaration on the Conservation of Flora, Fauna and Their Habitats, which was adopted by ECE. Designed by Carlos Ochagavia, who was born in Spain and is a citizen of Argentina, the stamps will be printed in sheets of 40 stamps (4 horizontally x 10 vertically) and include 2 se-tenant blocks of four horizontally and 5 se-tenant blocks of four vertically. The stamps were printed in offset by Heraclio Fournier, S.A., Spain.

Denominations:	30 cents	3 000 000
	F.s. 0,90	3 200 000
	S 5	3 800 000
Size:	26 mm x 36 mm	
Perforation:	13 3/4	

(United States equivalents - F.s. 0,90: 78 cents and S 5: 53 cents - subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

2. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first day covers on the UNPA official first day cachet ONLY.

3. Owing to the unusual format of the sheets, collectors are advised that ONLY the following selling units are available:

MINT STAMPS

Block of four:	1 se-tenant block of 4 stamps
Block of eight:	2 se-tenant blocks (8 stamps) with MI (the block is vertical with one MI)
Half sheet:	4 se-tenant blocks (16 stamps) with two MIs (the half sheet will be horizontal)
Full sheet:	10 se-tenant blocks (40 stamps)

FIRST DAY COVERS

MI block:	1 cover with 1 se-tenant block of 4 with MI
Combination:	1 cover with 1 attached se-tenant block of 4 without MI

Souvenir card

4. The thirty-ninth in a series of souvenir cards will also be released on 15 March 1991 to coincide with this issue.

Designer:	Robert J. Stein, United States of America
Printer:	Heraclio Fournier, S.A., Spain
Reproduction:	Offset
Quantity:	100,000

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Maximum cards

5. On 15 March 1991, UNPA will issue its very first set of maximum cards. The scenes of nature depicted in the se-tenant blocks of the "ECE - For a better environment" stamp issue will be reproduced on three different cards. The design will appear on the upper half of the card and the se-tenant block of stamps relevant to that design will be affixed to the lower half of the card and cancelled first day of issue.

6. The ECE maximum card cancelled at the United Nations, New York, will sell for $1.40. The cards cancelled at the United Nations, Geneva and the United Nations, Vienna, are priced at $3.33 and $2.28 respectively, but are subject to exchange rate fluctuation. Maximum cards will be available until 13 April 1991, unless sold out beforehand.

Picture postcards

7. Three pictorial postcards, which will be based on the designs of the ECE stamp issue, will be placed on sale on 15 March 1991. The cards, priced at 50c each, will be sold in mint condition only and will not carry preprinted postage.

8. Please note that neither the maximum cards nor the pictorial postcards are available through the Customer Deposit Service.

9. Members of delegations and the staff may obtain the new stamps and first day cancellations on Friday, 15 March, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) Counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10. Collectors should note that the "Banning of chemical weapons" and definitive stamp issue, originally scheduled for 1 February 1991, has been rescheduled for 9 September 1991.